

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIM 1 (currently amended):

1. In a cellular mobile telecommunications system, a method of charging for a call, comprising the steps of:

maintaining a record of channel usage for areas, each area comprising one or more cell sites and/or sectors in said system;

storing a first threshold and a second threshold, said second threshold higher than said first threshold, for each area;

responsive to detection of ~~a low~~ an occupancy of radio channels in an area below said first threshold, notifying mobile stations in said area that calls can now be originated and completed for a charge that is less than a normal charge for an originated call; ~~and~~

making a billing record for a call for which the charge is to be lower, said billing record comprising information to allow a billing processor to make a lower charge for said call;

responsive to a subsequent detection that occupancy for said area is now above said second threshold, notifying said mobile stations in said area that calls can now be completed at said normal charge.

CLAIM 2 (original):

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said lower cost is offered to only a subset of mobile stations served by said cellular mobile telecommunications system.

CLAIM 3 (currently amended):

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said subset is defined by a class of service stored in a mobile switching center serving said area.

CLAIMS 4-5 (canceled)

CLAIM 6 (original):

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

a service provider defining cell sites and/or sectors and thresholds of said area.

CLAIMS 7-15 (canceled)

CLAIM 16 (currently amended):

16. In a cellular mobile telecommunications system, apparatus for charging for a call, comprising:

means for storing data specifying a number of radio channels available in an area;

means for storing a first threshold and a second threshold, said second threshold higher than said first threshold, for each area;

processor means for controlling said mobile telecommunications system, and for making billing entries for calls on said system;

said processor means operative under the control of a program for:

detecting ~~a low~~ an occupancy of radio channels in said area below said first threshold;

controlling notification of mobile stations in said area that calls can now be originated and completed for a charge that is less than ~~the~~ a normal charge for an originated call; and

responsive to receipt of an originated call from one of the notified mobile stations, making a billing record for said originated call, said billing record comprising information to allow a billing processor to make a lower than normal charge for that call; and

responsive to a subsequent detection that occupancy for said area is now above said second threshold, notifying said mobile stations in said area that calls can now be completed at said normal charge.

CLAIM 17 (currently amended):

17. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said processor means are further operative under the control of said program for offering said the lower costs charge to only a subset of mobile stations served by said cellular mobile telecommunications system.

CLAIM 18 (currently amended):

18. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein said processor means are operative under the control of said program for defining said subset of mobile stations by a class of service stored in said processor means.

CLAIMS 19-20 (canceled)

CLAIM 21 (original):

AI  
21. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said processor means are further operative under the control of said program for defining cell sites and/or sectors, and thresholds of said area in response to data provided by a service provider.

CLAIMS 22-30 (canceled)

---